

BUOYS 'LL BE BUOYS OR MAY BE GHOSTS

Strange Adventure on Staten Island Ferry.

New York.—Buoy men will be buoyed out if they mistake their vocation in life and become phantoms or ghosts, depending on the point of view.

The trip on the Staten Island ferryboat where men are men and ferryboats merely transportation problems is long and interesting.

So interesting that the captain who was still young and susceptible paid more attention to two pretty girls walking along the sidewalk than he did to the steering of the boat. He unconsciously steered the vessel toward the shore.

Along the shore, or rather some little distance out, the government authorities have placed nine large white buoys. These buoys mark the line inside which is safe anchorage. That is, it is safe if there is no ferryboat with a susceptible captain steering.

Down in the cabin.

The boat, very narrow and nearer to the line of buoys and finally hit one of them, glancing blow sufficient to knock the buoy on its side.

Now it is necessary to go below to the cabin. The passenger list was small. It consisted of one man, who was dejectedly seated on the side of the boat nearest to the shore. This passenger had been in the boat for some time, and he imagined he was at sea. He lurched every now and then as the boat rolled and every once in a while he picked himself up from the floor and repeated himself continuously, "ferry weather," or "it's a wild night at sea."

He had just picked himself up for the sixth time when the ferryboat, unknown to the captain, had struck the buoy. As the boat veered off, the passenger, who was lone and high swung back and on the rebound smashed straight through the window and landed on the floor.

The buoy was picked up and it selected the window under which the passenger was sitting for the one to be broken, and then to make the complete trip the passenger on the boat and disappeared as quietly as it had arrived. The passenger saw nothing but a ghastly white object hitting him when he was not expecting it and then going away before he thought of its condition. He moved and not a little frightened.

If the shattered glass hadn't been there, he would have concluded that it was all a dream.

Besides, he had a bump on the side of the head and he was not on deck to remonstrate with the captain or anyone else he could find. He found the man.

"What the hell do you mean," he said, "tossing that window over my head and then hitting me without telling me first?"

That was the worst. The man didn't know anything about the buoy and he didn't know how to handle it. He was dejectedly seated on the side of the boat nearest to the shore. He imagined he was at sea. He lurched every now and then as the boat rolled and every once in a while he picked himself up from the floor and repeated himself continuously, "ferry weather," or "it's a wild night at sea."

"Why," he said, "you're liable to get into trouble for that. If anyone finds out that you broke that window, you'll have to pay for it and maybe go to jail for causing wild damage."

"But," protested the passenger, "I didn't break the window. Some one broke it from the outside and hit me over the head."

"They couldn't break it from the outside," the man replied. "It was no deep outside the window. You go to sleep again and get off the boat when the captain tells you to. The captain finds about this."

The passenger looked out of the window and sure enough there was no deck. He seemed mystified. Then he walked over to the other side of the boat, sat down and as he fell asleep again he murmured, "Then it was a ghost. I thought it was at first, but what did he want to hit me for? He ain't a friend of mine."

Tons of Plant Food
Extracted From Air
Columbus, Ohio.—In 1928 scientists captured nearly 1,000,000 tons of nitrogen out of this air—a source that is inexhaustible.

The process is known as "fixing" air nitrogen and is the basis of an industry that rapidly is developing in this country.

Dr. F. W. B. Bear of the state department of Ohio State university says the amount is equivalent to more than 4,000,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia, or more than 5,000,000 tons of nitrate of soda.

All Those Who Sell Gifts
Can't Escape Tax Laws
Washington.—Those who sell gifts cannot always escape the gift tax. The Supreme court has decided that if the gift is received for a gift was higher than the donor paid the difference was taxable. The gift was brought to the court by the wife of Chief Justice Charles E. Hughes, Mrs. Hughes, who sold the case. She sold the case to the court company given her by her father. She received \$1,000 more than the cost of the case.

Earliest "Clocks"
The water clock of the Egyptians, used by the Egyptians, Chinese, Greeks, and Romans, were the earliest forms of time-measuring devices constructed by man.

Prized Manuscript
The original manuscript of "Old Ironsides" is one of the Library of Congress and is of the Library of Congress.

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